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ON February 9, 2004

Rupert B. Hurley Jr.

Rupert B. Hurley Jr.
Registration No. 29,313

Feb 9, 2004
DATE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : KANNANKERIL, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

Serial No.: 10/082,635

Examiner: Aftergut, J.H.

Filing Date: February 25, 2002

Docket No.: D-30270-01

Title: LAMINATED CUSHIONING ARTICLE HAVING RECYCLED
POLYESTER BARRIER LAYER

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment under 37 C.F.R. 1.111 is filed in response to the Office Action mailed September 24, 2003, the three-month shortened statutory period for response thereto being extended two months, i.e., through 24 February 2004, by the concurrently-filed Petition for Extension of time of two months. As this Amendment is being mailed on or before 24 February 2003, no further extension is believed to be necessary.

However, in the event than a further extension of time is deemed to be necessary, Applicants request that such extension be granted, and the undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge Deposit Account No. 07-1765 in the appropriate amount.

Amendment

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

1. Amend the paragraph extending from Page 3 line 20 through page 4 line 10, as follows:

Conventional methods of making cushioning articles, such as Bubble Wrap[®] cushioning, use a vacuum source to deform polymer film to form bubbles or pockets that can be filled with air (or other gases) to form bubbles. Such products can be made using a heated drum having recesses connected to a vacuum source. When vacuum is applied, each of various regions of the heated film in contact with the drum is drawn into a recess on the drum. Those regions of the heated film which are drawn into the recesses are deformed and thinned by the vacuum drawing process. One side of the resulting formed film offers a flat surface for lamination thereto, i.e., has a flat ground region with spaced concavities from the forming process, while the other side does not offer a flat surface for lamination, but rather has formed protrusions thereon with an unavailable (i.e., for lamination) flat ground at the base of the protrusions. A second film, which preferably is a flat film, i.e., not thermoformed, is fused to the "flat side" of the formed film, resulting in a plurality of sealed, air-filled "bubbles." Preferably, the fusion is via heat-sealing.

2. Amend the paragraph extending from Page 15 lines 10-18, as follows:

Preferably, formed first film 12 has a thickness (before forming) of from about 0.2 to 10 mils, more preferably from 1 to 4 mils, more preferably from 1.2 to 2 mils, more preferably about 1.5 mils. Preferably, flat laminating film has a thickness of

from about 0.2 to 10 mils, more preferably from 0.5 to 2 mils, more preferably 0.5-1.5 mils, more preferably 1.0 mil. Preferably, the “bubble” in the cushioning article has a height of from 1/8 inch to 1 inch, and a diameter (or major dimension) of from 1/8 inch to 3 inches. More preferably, the bubble height is from ¼ to ½ inch and the bubble diameter is from ¼ inch to 1 inch. As the height and diameter of the bubble are increased, preferably the thickness of the first and second films is greater. Preferably, the first film is thicker than the second film.